



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner
March 28, 2006

The Honorable Bob Odell, Chairman
Senate Energy & Economic Development
Room 102; LOB
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: House Bill 1609-FN An Act Requiring a Pilot Project to Estimate Future Water Needs and Availability

Dear Senator Odell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1609, which requires the Department of Environmental Services (Department) to conduct a pilot project in NH's Seacoast to determine appropriate methodologies to estimate future water needs and availability that could inform water resource planning and groundwater withdrawal permitting.

The Department supports this legislation. We believe that this project can be done in conjunction with other water resource planning work that is underway or that we intend to initiate in the near future. Specifically, we anticipate data and analysis being performed under the Seacoast Groundwater Availability Study that is now being done by the United States Geological Survey, the NH Geological Survey and the Department can be utilized. The Department has also received a grant to begin development of a NH Water Resource Plan. Understanding water availability and projected needs is an obvious component of sound water resource planning. Provided that we receive this grant, the Department anticipates being able to perform the pilot work called for in the bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call Sarah Pillsbury at 271-1168 or me at 271-3449.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Nolin
for Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

cc: Representative Cilley
Representative Wall
Representative Phinizzy
Representative Cataldo
Representative Spang
Senator Hassan
Senator Estabrook
Senator Johnson